

what they need. That includes dogs. I will be happy to raise the money to pay for them but I can't ship them to any unit. You can believe me when I say that I've tried. My son completed one year in Afghanistan and two in Iraq. I thank God every day for his return. Parents can purchase and ship lots of things. I can buy a bomb sniffing dog. I just can't ship the dog. And the dog needs a handler. It's not something that a unit soldier can learn on the job.

I want Stryker Force and every other unit to have two dogs with handlers. And I want it now. The military can do it. They just need the proper motivation. What will it take?

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF  
SIMI VALLEY'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the City of Simi Valley's 40th birthday.

On September 20, 1969, the people who lived in the unincorporated Ventura County, California, communities of Simi Valley and Santa Susana voted 6,454 to 3,685 to incorporate. On October 10, 1969, the combined communities officially incorporated into the city of Simi Valley.

Simi Valley lies on the far eastern end of Ventura County. Ventura, the county seat, lies on the far western end. It is a long drive to obtain governmental approval, and the quest for local control is what drove incorporation.

Since incorporation, the people of the city have worked tirelessly to structure a safe, balanced, family-friendly and business-friendly community. It was done by embracing citizen involvement. Neighborhood Councils, the Youth Council and the Council On Aging were established as part of the government infrastructure, ensuring that residents of all ages have an opportunity to be heard and to be involved in government decisions at a grass-roots level.

Today, Simi Valley maintains more than 20 citizen advisory boards and commissions that advise the City Council on a variety of community issues.

Obviously, in any city differences of opinion arise. But unlike in some cities, Simi Valley's elected leaders have a well-earned reputation for discussing issues vigorously and then, once a vote is taken and the decision is made, having all sides come together behind that decision. I believe that is very much the result of empowering the community to shape the issues before they come to the City Council.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of my role in helping to shape Simi Valley. I served on the City Council as a member and appointed mayor, and as the city's first elected mayor, from 1979 to 1986. During that time, we began bringing jobs into what was then primarily a bedroom community, and there was much debate on how to accomplish that.

One of the issues that came from that debate was the creation of the city's first hillside ordinances, which we passed while I was mayor. The issue was framed by many as preservation vs. development. I was seen as being on the side of development. Then-Councilwoman Ann Rock was seen as being on the side of preservation.

Either side could have dug in their heels and accomplished nothing. Instead, working together, and with the help of many other conscientious people, Ann and I crafted an ordinance that worked for both sides. In the process, Ann and I also became dear friends. Ann has since passed away, but her handiwork can still be seen in much of Simi Valley.

Simi Valley shows the handiwork of many, many others, too. From the burgeoning farming community that incorporated in 1969, Simi Valley has grown into a balanced city of about 120,000 people with homes, schools and churches alongside upscale retail centers and clean industry. Since 1993, it has been among the top 10 safest cities in America, and topped the list several times. It is the home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum and the gateway to Ventura County. I am proud of the city I have called home since before it was a city.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me wishing Simi Valley, California, a happy 40th birthday and congratulate its citizens on a job well done.

WATER TRANSFER FACILITATION  
ACT OF 2009

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, due to overwhelming response from water users in the Central Valley, I am compelled today to introduce additional letters of support for the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009. The bill would grant authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley and streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers.

The bill is supported by a great number of water users across the Central Valley, including the following: Friant Water Users Authority; San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority; Delta-Mendota Canal Authority; Westlands Water District; Metropolitan Water District; Glen Colusa Irrigation District; Northern California Water Association; Banta-Carbona Irrigation District; Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority; Association of California Water Agencies; Placer County Water Agency; Conaway Preservation Group; and Reclamation District 2035.

Thank you.

PCWA,

*October 6, 2009.*

Hon. JIM COSTA,

*1314 Longworth House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Re Support of Central Valley Project Water Transfer Legislation.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a programmatic approach to promote and manage water transfers in California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater regulatory certainty for the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies for water users.

As you may be aware, PCWA has participated in water transfers in the past to help meet the needs of water users within the CVP and is intimately aware of the impacts

diminished water deliveries cause to farmers and communities. Because of PCWA's experience with previous water transfers, we also would like an opportunity to meet you and your staff to discuss additional regulatory improvements to Reclamation law that would streamline future transfers.

Because of below average precipitation and regulatory requirements placed upon the CVP and its water users through the requirements established by the recent National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions for endangered smelt and salmon, the impact to water users is severe. Your legislation will provide much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the State of California.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY,

GRAHAM L. ALLEN,

*Chairman, Board of Directors.*

CONAWAY PRESERVATION GROUP,

*Woodland, CA, Oct. 2, 2009.*

Re Support for water transfer legislation:

Hon. JIM COSTA,

*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Conaway Preservation Group, LLC (CPG), thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP. Further, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to develop the necessary long-term environmental documentation addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake is a critical and necessary near-term next step.

CPG owns the Conaway Ranch in Yolo County. The Conaway Ranch property covers more than 17,000 acres on the west side of the Sacramento River between the cities of Davis and Woodland. Conaway Ranch has been operated for many years to meet goals of agricultural production and waterfowl/wildlife habitat. Approximately 40 percent of the Ranch is located within the Yolo Bypass and the remainder lies west of the bypass. Conaway Ranch's water rights and Bureau of Reclamation Settlement Contract are held by CPG. CPG's Settlement Contract water is a major contributor to the Conaway Ranch water supply during its annual summer operational term of April 1 through October 31.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation